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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date: 10/12/93

☒ RELEASE☐ DECLASSIFY

MR Cases Only:

☐ EXCISE☐ DECLASSIFY

EO Citations

☐ DENY

IN PART

☐ DELETE Non-Responsive Info

FOIA Exemptions

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May 19, 1981

Dear Senator Levin:

I am responding to your letter of March 3, 1981, to Secretary Baig concerning your earlier request for access to certain documents pertaining to the case of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg.

Following receipt of your letter, the Department once again thoroughly and carefully reviewed the documents in question. I regret to inform you that the Department must decline to provide the material requested on the grounds that it had been provided to us in confidence by foreign governments.

At your convenience, however, the Department will be pleased on a confidential basis to brief you on the latest information regarding the case and to review with you all previous actions taken by the United States Government in our effort to obtain a clarification of Wallenberg's fate. At various times in the past we have provided your office with the substance of all Department activities on the case, including actions to which the withheld documentary material relates. We are hopeful that a confidential review such as the one we are proposing will assist in clarifying for you the chronological course of Department actions taken in the Wallenberg case.

With regard to your question as to whether the Department had asked the Swedish and Soviet Governments for permission to release the documents in question to you, the Department does not normally follow such a course of action and, for a number of reasons, considers it inadvisable normally to do so. In this case, the Department did find it appropriate to ask the views of the Government of Sweden with regard to the release of two of the documents. Should it prove possible to release these two documents, we will, of course, do so. The specific content of diplomatic communications, however, is not routinely made available for accelerated declassification, nor does the Department release documents containing confidential information if such release would jeopardize the future likelihood of the foreign government sources' providing the United States with confidential information. Both of these concerns are relevant to the Department's decision not to release the remaining materials requested by you on the Wallenberg case.

During his confirmation hearings in January, Secretary Baig told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he would abide

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by existing Department of State criteria and procedures regarding provision of classified material to Members of Congress and to Senators. A copy of the Department guidelines signed by Under-Secretary Vance is attached.

I hope this information helps explain the basis for the Department's inability to release to you the actual documents you requested. Please be assured, however, that the Department is pleased to continue to cooperate with you fully in the effort to clarify the fate of Ecuil Wallenberg.

Sincerely,

Richard Fairbanks
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Copy of Department Guidelines.

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5/6/81, ext. 28671 #16158

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